

AGENDA
SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION AND ROAD IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE
Village of Hoffman Estates
August 20, 2018

Immediately Following Public Health & Safety

Members:	Karen Mills, Chairman	Anna Newell, Trustee
	Gary Stanton, Vice Chairman	Gary Pilafas, Trustee
	Karen Arnet, Trustee	Michael Gaeta, Trustee
		William McLeod, Mayor

I. Roll Call

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Steeple Hill fence and gate near Alcoa Lane and Washington Boulevard.

II. Adjournment

(Further details and information can be found in the agenda packet attached hereto and incorporated herein and can also be viewed online at www.hoffmanestates.org and/or in person in the Village Clerk's office).

The Village of Hoffman Estates complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). For accessibility assistance, call the ADA Coordinator at 847/882-9100.

**COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM
VILLAGE OF HOFFMAN ESTATES**

SUBJECT: Discussion of Steeple Hill fence and gate near Alcoa Lane and Washington Boulevard

MEETING DATE: August 20, 2018

COMMITTEE: Special Transportation and Road Improvement

FROM: Jim Norris / Doug LaSota / Peter Gugliotta

PURPOSE: Provide an update on items related to the Steeple Hill fence, gate, and residential parking permit program near Alcoa Lane and Washington Boulevard.

BACKGROUND: At the Committee meeting in March 2018, there was discussion of the Steeple Hill fence condition and gate. At that time, the expansion of the residential parking permit program was underway as Public Works was installing the signs. Several residents addressed the Committee in March to state their preference for removing the gate and discussed activity in the area. The Committee directed that the item return for an update once the expanded parking permit program had been in place for 90 days.

Prior to the March Committee meeting, staff met with the Steeple Hill Association Board President and management company who expressed interest in cooperating with the neighbors and the Village. Steeple Hill stated their desire to retain a gate in the fence because they have found it greatly reduces maintenance costs by minimizing vandalism from people breaking boards to get through the fence. Staff also met with some residents of the area earlier this year in advance of the March meeting. The parking permit program was discussed along with the fence and gate. It was agreed to wait until data could be collected to help evaluate the effectiveness of the parking permit program. Finally for the March Committee meeting, Village Legal Counsel advised the Village Code does not prohibit a gate in a fence that opens up onto a public right-of-way. Village Legal Counsel has also determined that the Village Board can cause a fence to be erected in the public right-of-way on Washington Boulevard abutting Steeple Hill property so long as doing so is reasonably related to providing for the public health, safety, comfort or welfare.

DISCUSSION:

Parking Permit Program Enforcement Overview

The Village Board approved the expanded residential parking permit program earlier this year as a means to help address issues raised by area residents. Enforcement began in mid-April with officers issuing citations for violations of the permit parking regulations. Officers had issued warnings prior to that. The number of citations per week has decreased since the first weeks of enforcement and has leveled off. A total of 57 citations have been issued based on the latest records available through the end of July, an overall average of about 3 to 4 per week following the initial week. There are some vehicle owners who have received two or three citations, with most of the repeat tickets issued within the first month of enforcement. Police Department data found Berkley and Western as two streets where more citations have been issued compared to other streets, discounting the first couple weeks of enforcement. There was one vehicle flagged for the abandoned vehicle process which requires a long legal period of notice but the vehicle was eventually moved. Officers have not noticed an increase in parking in other nearby commercial parking lots, Church of the Cross, or along Spring Mill Drive. Overall, the permit program has been effective in achieving the goal of allowing on-street parking during the designated hours only for those vehicles registered within the defined zone.

Steeple Hill Fence and Gate Repairs

Steeple Hill replaced fence panels along the entire length of its property. The Association also installed a spring on the gate at Washington Boulevard so that it does not stay open. As part of the fence replacement, the HOA also removed scrub trees and bushes from along the common property line with the neighboring Alcoa Lane residents. Code staff has visited the property multiple times per week and met with both Steeple Hill staff and adjacent homeowners. One incident of vandalism involving graffiti was quickly addressed by Steeple Hill. As noted at the last meeting, the Village has documented evidence (corroborated by comments from Steeple Hill and Alcoa residents) that there had been issues with people breaking holes in the fence to allow access on a regular basis for over 30 years. The Steeple Hill Association has stated the vandalism of this nature has been reduced since they installed the gate. It is also noteworthy that the Association's contractor recently cleaned up the area between the condominium's fence and the homeowners' fences.

Village Code and Legal Assessment

The opinion from Legal Counsel has not changed since the March discussion. The Village has no legal basis to require Steeple Hill to remove the access gate from the fence and therefore this private gate can remain in place to allow access to and from the public street (Washington Blvd.) While the Village could technically install and maintain its own new fence / wall within the public right of way at the dead end of Washington, there is no way to stop pedestrians from simply walking around any such barrier by crossing onto private property to travel north / south through this area. This would likely create a new set of issues on these properties that do not exist today.

Notices were sent to residents who attended prior meetings plus other addresses close to the Alcoa / Washington intersection regarding this update meeting. A letter from the resident of 540 Alcoa Lane is attached.

RECOMMENDATION:

Information is presented for update and review.

Attachments

SCOTT A. EWING

540 Alcoa Lane
Hoffman Estates, IL. 60194
847-490-1078 (H)
847-494-6777(C)

RECEIVED

AUG 13 2018

**ENGINEERING
TRANSPORTATION**

August 10, 2018

**Village of Hoffman Estates
Director of Transportation
1900 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates IL 60169**

Ref: August 20, 2018 Committee Meeting – Parking Permit Program & Steeple Hill Fence

Dear Director Hankey:

Thank you for asking Director Gugliotta to return my phone call to you this morning. Pursuant to my phone conversation on August 9, 2018 with Director Gugliotta, I will be out of town on the date of the upcoming meeting. I am requesting that you ensure that the following items are shared with the Committee and that my concerns be included in the minutes of the meeting.

Parking Permit Program:

- In general the program has had an overall positive impact on the issues and concerns discussed at the prior Committee meetings, excluding the intersections of Alcoa Lane and Washington St and the dead end at Washington Street.
- Unfortunately, parking by non-residents/without Permits continues to be a problem, specifically at and around the intersection of Alcoa Lane and Washington Street. In my opinion, this problem exists only because of the gate at the end of Washington Street. If the gate was not conveniently there, Steeple Hill occupants would not attempt to park illegally in this area.
- The patrol and enforcement of the Permit Parking in the Alcoa Lane and Washington Street area has been spotty and often requires a call from myself or one of my family members to the Hoffman Estates Police Department to have tickets or towing notices issued. Police records should bear this out. As long as the gate continues to exist, I am requesting the Hoffman Estates Police Department to check this area (after 12:00AM) daily to insure consistent enforcement.

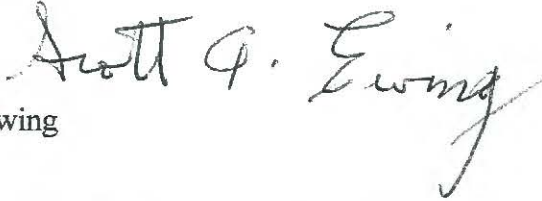
Vandalism, Graffiti and Littering:

- Trash, graffiti and littering continues to be a problem at and around the gate at the end of Washington Street. I believe that you are aware of this issue and that Hoffman Estates Public Works employees have been sent to clean up this area a number of times. Neighbors have also cleaned up after those using the gate. Once again, if there was no gate there would be no problems.
- The fence and gate have been kicked out and destroyed numerous times, both before and after the fence was recently replaced. Police, Code and Transportation records will bear this out. Over time, in my opinion, if the fence/gate was closed off, these issues would resolve themselves.

In summary, I am requesting Mr. Norris and the Committee to support the residents of Alcoa Lane and Washington Street and re-close the gate. Please remember that this was the position of the Village for over 25+ years. The gate continues to have unintended consequences.

Thank you for your considerations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott A. Ewing". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Scott A. Ewing

CC: Peter Gugliotta, Director of Planning

SAE/sae

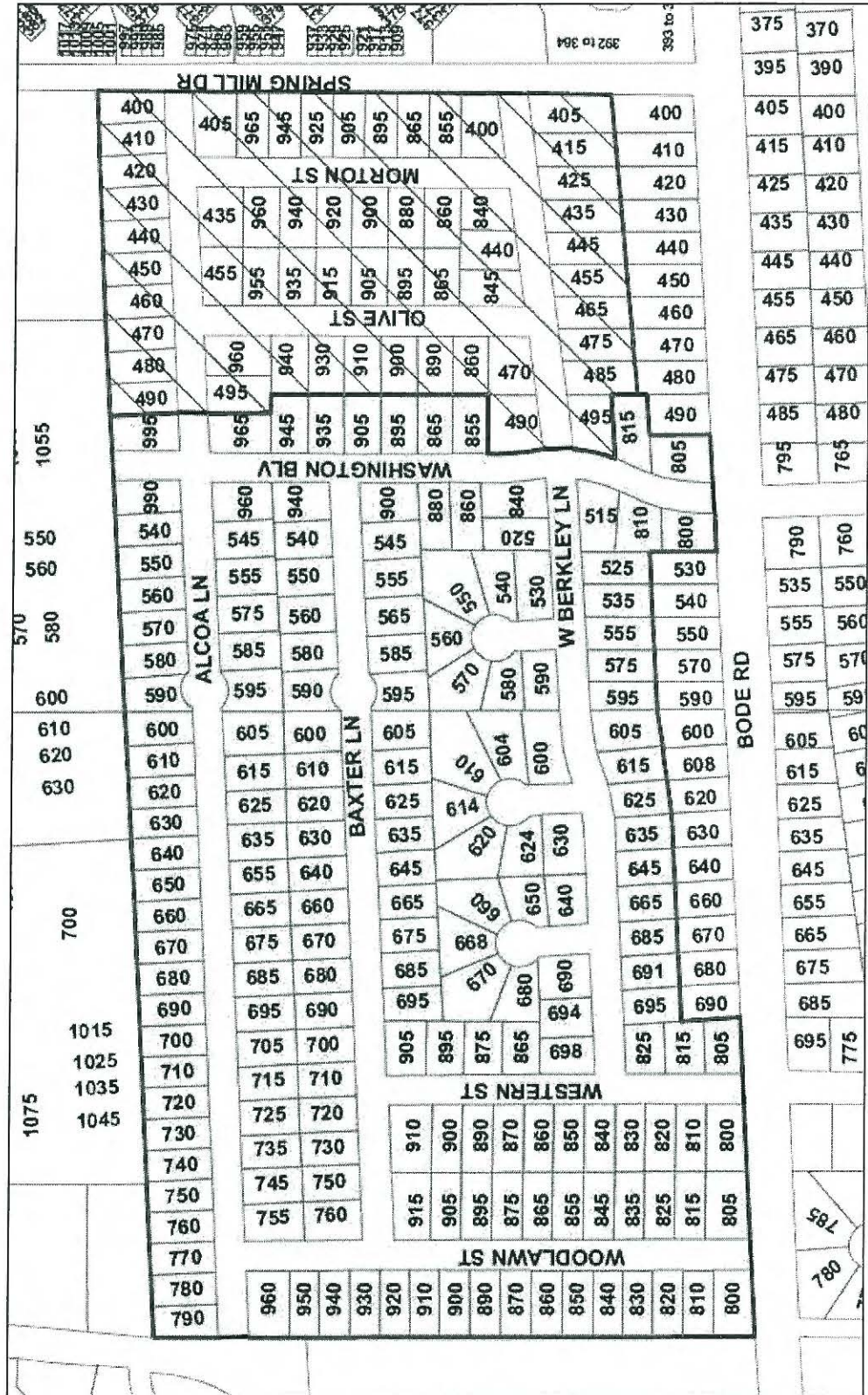
Residential Parking Permit Area Change



Expanded
Permit Area



Prior Permit
Area



Steeple Hill - Alcoa Ln Fence

